

Assembly Bill No. 1718

CHAPTER 200

An act to add Section 13515.25 to the Penal Code, relating to peace officers.

[Approved by Governor July 24, 2000. Filed with
Secretary of State July 24, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1718, Hertzberg. Peace officers: advanced training: mental illness.

Existing law requires specified categories of law enforcement officers to meet training standards pursuant to courses of training certified by the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) program, including a basic training course for law enforcement officers containing an adequate instruction in the handling of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness, or both, as specified.

This bill would require that, on or before June 30, 2001, POST establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement intervention with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons and that the course be developed in consultation with specified groups and entities.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 13515.25 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

13515.25. (a) The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training shall, on or before June 30, 2001, establish and keep updated a continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement interaction with developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons. The training course shall be developed by the commission in consultation with appropriate community, local, and state organizations and agencies that have expertise in the area of mental illness and developmental disability, and with appropriate consumer and family advocate groups. In developing the course, the commission shall also examine existing courses certified by the commission that relate to mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons. The commission shall make the course available to law enforcement agencies in California.

(b) The course described in subdivision (a) shall consist of classroom instruction and shall utilize interactive training methods

to ensure that the training is as realistic as possible. The course shall include, at a minimum, core instruction in all of the following:

(1) The cause and nature of mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

(2) How to identify indicators of mental illness and developmental disability and how to respond appropriately in a variety of common situations.

(3) Conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques for potentially dangerous situations involving mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

(4) Appropriate language usage when interacting with mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

(5) Alternatives to lethal force when interacting with potentially dangerous mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

(6) Community and state resources available to serve mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons and how these resources can be best utilized by law enforcement to benefit the mentally ill and developmentally disabled community.

(c) The commission shall submit a report to the Legislature by October 1, 2003, that shall include all of the following:

(1) A description of the process by which the course was established, including a list of the agencies and groups that were consulted.

(2) Information on the number of law enforcement agencies that utilized, and the number of officers that attended, the course or other courses certified by the commission relating to mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons from July 1, 2001, to July 1, 2003, inclusive.

(3) Information on the number of law enforcement agencies that utilized, and the number of officers that attended, courses certified by the commission relating to mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2001, inclusive.

(d) The Legislature encourages law enforcement agencies to include the course created in this section, or any other course certified by the commission relating to mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons, as part of their advanced officer training program.

(e) It is the intent of the Legislature to reevaluate, on the basis of its review of the report required in subdivision (c), the extent to which law enforcement officers are receiving adequate training in how to interact with mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.